

25th Conference

of

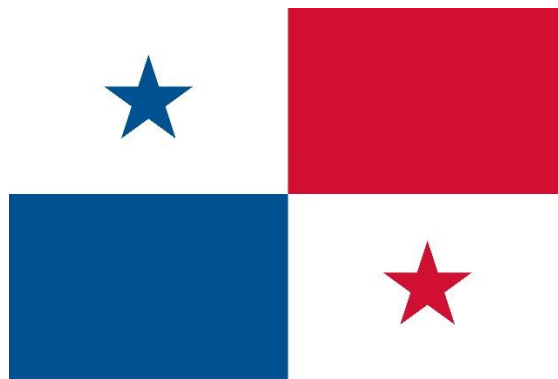
**The Meso American and Caribbean Sea
Hydrographic Commission
(MACHC25)**

in

Panama City, Panama

between

Monday 2 December and Friday 6 December 2024



**LOGISTICS
INFORMATION**



Date Amended: **11 July 2024**

1. CONFERENCE VENUE:

The MACHC25 Conference will be taking place at **W Panama Hotel** in Panama City. The full address of the venue is:

W Panama
Calle 50 and Aquilino de la Guardia
Panama City
Panama
80809
Tel: +507 3027555
[W Panama website](#)



W Panama is in the heart of the business district and only a 25-30 minute drive from Panama's Tocumen International Airport. It is also only a 15-minute walk from Casco Viejo, the historic centre of the city.

2. ACCOMMODATION:

The MACHC25 participants are recommended to stay in the same venue, W Panama, as the meeting to promote networking (see details above).

The hotel has kindly offered all MACHC25 delegates a special room rate of USD139 per night (exclusive of taxes and tips) for single occupancy, to include breakfast. The cost inclusive of taxes and tips is USD156 - this represents a saving of USD88 per night. To obtain this special rate, please use the link below:



[Book your group rate for MACHC25](#)

Participants must ensure that they make their hotel reservation by Saturday 28 September 2024 at 1800 hours to receive the special rate. After that cut-off date, the hotel may not be able to guarantee this special rate for MACHC25 participants. Most (though not all) of the other costs of food (social events, lunch and teas/coffees) will be covered through the host (UKHO).

The W Panama has many amenities: rooftop swimming pool; spa; gym; full business/conference centre; and several restaurants. For further information on the experiences you can enjoy at the W Panama, see here: [W Panama experiences](#)

3. TRANSPORTATION:

Getting to Panama:

Airlines/Flights: If you are travelling to Panama from within the MACHC region, [COPA Airlines](#), the national airline, offers many flights to and from [Panama's Tocumen International Airport](#). If you are travelling from Europe, [KLM](#), [Air France](#) and [Iberia](#) offer regular flights (some direct) to Panama's Tocumen International Airport.

Getting to the Hotel: The W Panama is approximately a 30-minute drive from Tocumen International Airport; however, timings can vary depending on the traffic and road conditions.

The Hotel offers a bus transportation service to and from the airport for a fee. If you wish to use this service, please inform the reservations team when you book your room.

Taxis, Uber and Metro De Panama:

Taking a **taxi** in Panama City is **usually very safe and comfortable**. Panama taxi drivers are notoriously friendly and chatty. However, if you do experience any issues such as overcharging or an unsafe and unprofessional driver, you can report it to the Transit Police by calling +507 231 2678.

Uber is also operated in the city. You should not expect to pay more than USD20 from the Airport to the W Hotel.

The Panama Metro System ([Metro De Panama](#)) is also very widely used and provides rapid transportation across the city. The Metro De Panama consists of two metro lines, Line 1 connects San Isidro and Albrook, while Line 2 connects Nuevo Tocumen and San Miguelito. Metro De Panama operates seven days a week and 365 days a year (Monday-Friday 05:00-23:00, Saturday 05:00-22:00, and Sundays and Public Holidays 07:00-22:00).

Cars and Road Safety: Driving standards can be poor and traffic accidents are common. Roads are often poorly lit and can have potholes and unfinished repairs. Traffic can be heavy in Panama City and other populated areas.

4. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:**

Panamanian Spanish is the official language of Panama - many speak English as well.

5. **TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION:**

Passports: Passports must be valid for at least 6 months. At the Panamanian border control, you may need to give the address of your accommodation and a contact telephone number. Airlines might pass you an Entry Card prior to arrival which you should fill out and pass to the authorities at Passport Control.

Visas: Please check with your national government on individual visa requirements to enter Panama. However, you can often visit Panama for up to 3 months without a visa if you arrive by land or air. For further information on Panama's visa and immigration - [Migration Panama - Migration Panama \(migracion.gob.pa\)](#)

6. **CURRENCY:**

The official currency in Panama is the Panamanian Balboa (PAB). The US dollar (USD) is, however, also widely accepted and is deemed to be Panama's second currency. All major credit cards are widely accepted.

7. **WEATHER:**

December is the start of Panama's dry season, which extends to mid-April. The weather is generally hot and dry, and although humidity is lower than during the wet season, temperatures are higher. As a tropical country not far north of the equator, temperatures in Panama are hot year-round and fairly uniform across the country. The annual average temperature is 86°F (30°C), but this can rise to 90°F (32°C) during the dry season.

8. **HEALTH:**

Emergency Number: Dial 911 in all emergency situations (medical, police & fire).

For further information on the vaccination requirements/recommendations for entry to Panama please visit the following website: [NaTHNaC - Panama \(travelhealthpro.org.uk\)](#)

9. **LAWS:**

Smoking and E-Cigarette Bans: It is illegal to smoke in public places. You could be fined USD100-250 if you're caught smoking where it's not allowed. The use of e-cigarettes is also banned in public places.

10. **POWER:**

The standard voltage is 110 / 220V and the frequency is 60Hz. In Panama, the power plug sockets are of type A and B



Type A: This socket has no alternative plugs



Type B: This socket also works with plug A

11. **MACHC25 KEY CONTACT:**

If you have any further questions about MACHC25, please contact the MACHC Secretary, Emma Webb emma.webb@ukho.gov.uk